Senate approves gay-rights bill

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Dems' victory sends measure to House

By KYLE HENLEY
THE GAZETTE

DENVER • Gays would comprise a protected class within Colorado's anti-discrimination employment laws under a measure that won final approval Monday in the state Senate.

On a party-line vote, members voted 18-17 to pass Senate Bill 28 by Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver. The bill goes to the House.

Republicans opposed the measure, and Democrats supported it.

HOW THEY VOTED - SB28

Sen. Ed Jones, R-Colorado Springs; Sen. Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs; Sen. Ron May, R-Colorado Springs; Sen. Andy McElhany, R-Colorado Springs; Sen. Tom Weins, R-Castle Rock, all voted no.

"It's anti-business," said Sen. Tom Weins, R-Castle Rock, whose district includes Teller County and northern El Paso County. "It's impossible for an employer to know" whether an employee or job applicant is gay.

Democrats counter that adding sexual orientation to anti-discrimination laws that cover race, sex, gender and religious affiliation is a logical next step in the civil rights movement.

"The comments against SB28 are mythology," said Sen. Dan Grossman, D-Denver. "The mythology is that you can't be pro-civil rights and pro-business at the same time."

Some critics argued that the legislation, if it passes, would lead to an increase in employment discrimination lawsuits. Veiga said that hasn't happened in other states that have passed similar legislation.

Sen. Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs, tried to add an amendment that would ban cross-dressing in the workplace, but it was defeated.

DAVID BITTON, THE GAZETTE

Students and their coaches from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind do a cheer Monday during the ninth annual Academic Bowl at Gallaudet University in Washington. The team competed against nine other schools.

SIGNING OUT

Local team eliminated in finals at national contest for deaf

By **BRIAN NEWSOME**
THE GAZETTE

WASHINGTON

After matching wits with nine teams in two days, Colorado Springs students seemed as relieved as they were disappointed Monday

onship, with Seattle's Roosevelt High School the runner-up. Colorado tied for sixth.

The Colorado Springs school won the national championship last year, and this year's team had a record of three wins and two losses after the first day of competition Sunday.